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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of all creation, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In the midst of cold winds and uncertain and sometimes disastrous weather patterns, the consistent warm rays of light fall upon the good and the bad, the believers and unbelievers alike. Gradually, the days are already growing longer but, like the movement of Your grace, often unnoticed.

Lord, You are ever present, especially to those most in need. Show Your mercy to the weakest among us, the children, the poor, the elderly, the homeless. And on this National Day of Prayer, may all Your people be mindful of these anawim among us.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people's House, that they might be inspired to do what they are able, to care for those whom You have favored from biblical times, the powerless and most vulnerable.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### TALIBAN

(Mr. MCKINLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 28, the White House refused to recognize the Taliban as a terrorist group, calling them an "armed insurgency" instead. What part of terrorism don't they understand?

Under Federal law, a "terrorist organization" must meet three criteria: be foreign, be engaged in terrorist activity and intimidation, and threaten the security of the United States of America.

The Department of the Treasury and the National Counterterrorism Center define the Taliban as a "terrorist organization," but the White House refuses to do so. Common sense says, if we can't call our enemy what they are, then how can we fight them?

Mr. Speaker, my resolution is simple. It urges the administration to publicly recognize the Taliban as a terrorist organization. We could use a little straight talk around here.

I ask for your support of House Concurrent Resolution 13.

### PUT AMERICA BACK TO WORK

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, instead of taking action for bigger paychecks for Americans or rebuilding America's

crumbling infrastructure, House Republicans yesterday introduced legislation to repeal and undermine the Affordable Care Act.

This legislation would undermine fundamental guarantees under the ACA that you can no longer lose or be denied coverage due to a preexisting condition. This latest proposal would put coverage for things like maternity care up to the whim of the States. It would include a tax hike on working families and would leave millions uninsured without any coverage at all.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a serious proposal, and more than 2,000 days after President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act, Republicans still lack a serious alternative.

Thanks to the ACA, uninsured rates are at a record low and hardworking families can afford health care, but Republicans continue their obsession with stripping protections from affordable coverage.

This is the wrong direction for our country. We should be working on putting America back to work.

### OBAMACARE REPEAL

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, what a wonderful opportunity to set the record straight.

I rise today to applaud my colleagues in the House for passing H.R. 596 on Tuesday which repeals ObamaCare in its entirety. This bill also instructs committees to pass solutions that are patient-centered, free market alternatives because ObamaCare is unaffordable.

I hear it when I am at my son's football games or when I go to the grocery stores: it is important to Americans that Members up here in Washington are listening to and fighting for them on this issue because the President refuses to.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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